

Iowa Department on Aging

Director Donna K. Harvey

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Iowa Department on Aging Announces Elder Abuse Summit

Elder Abuse Summit to be Held August 2, 2012 in Des Moines

(Des Moines, IA) Today Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) Director Donna Harvey announced that the 'first ever' Iowa Elder Abuse Summit will be held in Des Moines on August 2, 2012.

"The Elder Abuse Summit will feature presenters in the morning and participant input in the afternoon. The focus of the Summit is to provide an assessment of Iowa's current situation, identify system barriers and gather suggestions on what is needed to create the desired elder abuse system and to ensure the highest quality of life for older individuals in Iowa," Director Harvey stated.

The Summit is in response to House File 2387, which the Iowa legislature passed and Governor Branstad signed into law in April of this year. The law directs the Iowa Department on Aging to work with the Department of Inspections and Appeals, Department of Human Services, Attorney General's Office, and other affected stakeholders, to conduct a comprehensive review of occurrences of and laws relating to the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals who are sixty years of age or older.

The Elder Abuse Summit will be held on August 2, 2012 at the Izaak Walton League, located at 4343 George Flagg Parkway in Des Moines. The event will run from 8:00AM to 3:00PM. Cost for the event is \$10.00 (lunch included) and seating is limited.

For those interested in attending, registration is available by going to the Iowa Department on Aging website at: <http://www.aging.iowa.gov/> or by contacting Pat Wyatt at: 515/725-3240 or calling toll-free: 800/532-3213.

According to the National Adult Protective Services Association, elder abuse is under-reported with only one in 23 cases ever reported and only one in 44 cases are reported in financial exploitation cases. Older abuse victims are three times more likely to die than non-abused older adults.

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes.

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